THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The representations recived from the workmen of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. have been referred to the EPF Organisation. The matter is under examination and final decision on these will be taken on merit and in accordance with relevant rules.

Utilisation of unclaimed porvident fund amount

1791. SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any data of the amount deposited in provident fund in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what has been the ratio of unclaimed amount in this fund;

(d) whether Government have any plans to use this unclaimed provident fund amount for different welfare schemes in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 31.3.1996 the progressive total amount deposited in the Employees' Provident Funds was Rs. 50704.16 crore.

(c) Total amount lying in the unclaimed deposit account as on 31.3.1996 was Rs. 72.53 crores.

(d) to (e) The provident fund money belongs to the subscribers. It is, therefore, required to be paid to the individual subscriber/nominee as per provisions of the scheme as and when claim in this regard is received in the Employees' Provident Fund Office.

Policy to prevent of regularise child labour

1792. SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:
SHRI SANJAY NIRPUPAM:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy to prevent or regularise the child labour in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the policy and the response of all the NGOs functioning in the country in this regard; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no consensus among the people working in the field of child labour, as far as the policy is concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Common Minimum Programme (CMP) of the present Government seeks complete elimination of child labour. Government have initiated number of steps for progressive elimination of child labour. Under the Child Labour prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, the employment of children is prohibited in 7 occupations and 18 processes. The working conditions of children in all other employments are regulated under the Act. There are also legal provisions in other labour laws safeguarding the interests of working children. Government have also taken up a programme for rehabilitation of child labour withdrawn from hazardous occupations through special schools in which NGOs are also being closely associated. Government is not aware of any major disagreement with the overall policy and approach of the Government on child labour.

Competition From Child Labour in The Beedi Sector

1793. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been evolved to protect workers in the beedi